

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

**Please amend the claims as follows:**

1. (Currently Amended) A motor-driven ~~type~~ power steering apparatus comprising:  
a drive gear connected to an output shaft of a motor;  
a follower gear ~~in mesh~~ meshed with the drive gear, which is connected to a steering unit;  
a bearing for supporting one end of the drive gear;  
a support portion in which the bearing is disposed; and  
a curved leaf spring ~~which has~~ comprising a length larger than a peripheral length of the bearing and fitted between the bearing and the support portion in a resiliently deformed state, said curved leaf spring being fitted along an outer peripheral surface of the bearing and an inner surface of the support portion.  
wherein the curved leaf spring urges the bearing such ~~so~~ that a distance between an axis of the follower gear and an axis of the drive gear decreases.
2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the support portion includes a recess into which opposite ends of the curved leaf spring are inserted, and which is located distant from ~~the~~ an axis of the follower gear with respect to ~~the~~ an axis of the drive gear.
3. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus according to claim 2,~~ A motor-driven power steering apparatus comprising:  
a drive gear connected to an output shaft of a motor;  
a follower gear meshed with the drive gear, which is connected to a steering unit;  
a bearing for supporting one end of the drive gear;  
a support portion in which the bearing is disposed; and  
a curved leaf spring comprising a length larger than a peripheral length of the bearing and fitted between the bearing and the support portion in a resiliently deformed state.

wherein the curved leaf spring urges the bearing such that a distance between an axis of the follower gear and an axis of the drive gear decreases,

wherein the support portion includes a recess into which opposite ends of the curved leaf spring are inserted, and which is located distant from an axis of the follower gear with respect to an axis of the drive gear,

wherein the curved leaf spring includes an abutment portion formed adjacent to ~~the an~~ end ~~thereof~~ of the curved leaf spring and a bent portion projected outwardly from the abutment portion, the abutment portion abutting against an outer peripheral surface of the bearing and the bent portion being inserted into the recess of the support portion.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus according to claim 1,~~ A motor-driven power steering apparatus comprising:

a drive gear connected to an output shaft of a motor;

a follower gear meshed with the drive gear, which is connected to a steering unit;

a bearing for supporting one end of the drive gear;

a support portion in which the bearing is disposed; and

a curved leaf spring comprising a length larger than a peripheral length of the bearing and fitted between the bearing and the support portion in a resiliently deformed state, said curved leaf spring being fitted along an outer peripheral surface of the bearing and an inner surface of the support portion,

wherein the curved leaf spring urges the bearing such that a distance between an axis of the follower gear and an axis of the drive gear decreases,

wherein the support portion ~~has~~ comprises a hole in which the bearing is disposed and which ~~has~~ comprises a substantially oval shape such that a radius between a center of the drive gear and a first side region of the hole which is located distant from the axis of the follower gear with respect to the center is larger than a radius between the center and a second side region which is located close to the axis of the follower gear with respect to the center.

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein ~~the an~~ end of the drive gear supported by the bearing is distant from the motor with respect to ~~the an~~ other end

of said drive gear.

6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:  
a pressing member for pressing the drive gear in a direction away from the motor,  
wherein the curved leaf spring includes a spring piece portion for pressing the bearing  
toward the motor.
7. (New) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said curved leaf spring comprises  
a strip of spring steel.
8. (New) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said curved leaf spring comprises:  
a first end having a notch formed thereon; and  
a second end having a pair of notches formed thereon,  
wherein the notch on said first end is fitted between the pair of notches on said second  
end such that said first end and said second end intersect without increasing a width of said  
curved leaf spring.
9. (New) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said curved leaf spring comprises  
at least one spring protrusion formed on a side edge of a curved portion of the curved leaf  
spring, said at least one spring protrusion urges said bearing toward said motor.
10. (New) The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said at least one spring protrusion  
projects from the curved portion and is inclined inwardly relative to the peripheral surface of  
the curved portion.
11. (New) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said curved leaf spring contacts  
said outer peripheral surface of said bearing.
12. (New) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said curved leaf spring contacts  
said inner surface of said support portion.

13. (New) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said curved leaf spring contacts said outer peripheral surface of said bearing and said curved leaf spring contacts said inner surface of said support portion.
14. (New) The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a cushioning material coated on at least one surface of said curved leaf spring.
15. (New) The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a cushioning material coated on an inner surface of said curved leaf spring and an outer surface of said curved leaf spring.
16. (New) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said curved leaf spring comprises abutment portions for abutting against the outer peripheral surface of the bearing.
17. (New) The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said abutment portions comprise bent portions projecting outwardly from said abutment portions.
18. (New) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said curved leaf spring is fitted between the bearing and the support portion such that opposing ends of said curved leaf spring overlap.
19. (New) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a resilient force of end portions of said curved leaf spring urges said bearing.